

Appln. No.: 10/635,595

Amdt. dated September 1, 2005

Reply to Office action of May 23, 2005

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1(Currently Amended). A sled comprising:

a body having front and rear ends and sides and top and bottom surfaces and an axis (A) extending longitudinally from said front end to said rear end dividing said body into two longitudinal symmetrical halves, and

a pair of ground-engagable steerable front runners extending ~~areuately~~ in the longitudinal direction along said bottom surface from said front end toward the longitudinal middle of said body and disposed on opposite sides of said axis (A), said front runners curving upwardly and outwardly toward said front end of said sled to enable steering of the sled in response to engaging said upwardly and outwardly curving front runners with the ground.

at least one rear runner extending longitudinally straight along said bottom surface from said rear end toward said middle of said body, and

a major portion of the extend of said front runners being devoid of longitudinal overlap with said rear runner and a major portion of the extent of said rear runner being devoid of longitudinal overlap with said front runners whereby said front runners lead into said rear runners adjacent the middle of said body.

2(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 1 wherein said front runners curve toward one another from said front end toward said middle.

3(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 1 wherein said front runners curve toward one another from said front end and into parallel sections directed into said rear runner.

4(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 2 including a plurality of said rear runners.

5(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 4 wherein said plurality of rear runners are disposed closer to said longitudinal axis (A) than said front runners.

6(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 2 including a first pair of said rear runners disposed on opposite sides of said longitudinal axis (A).

7(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 6 wherein each of said rear runners tapers from a point adjacent said middle to a wide section adjacent said rear end.

8(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 6 including a second pair of rear runners disposed on opposite sides of said longitudinal axis (A) and inside said first pair of rear runners.

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9(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 3 including first and second pairs of rear runners with runners of each pair disposed on opposite sides of said longitudinal axis (A) and both pairs disposed closer to said longitudinal axis (A) than said parallel sections of said front runners.

10(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 3 including first and second pairs of rear runners with said second pair of rear runners being disposed inside said first pair of rear runners and said first pair of rear runners being disposed inside said parallel sections of said front runners said first and second pairs of runners each having a front end, said front ends of said first pair of rear runners being closer to said front end of said body than said front ends of said second pair of rear runners.

11(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 10 wherein each of said rear runners tapers from said front end thereof to a wide section adjacent said rear end.

12(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 11 including at least one straight guide runner disposed on said bottom surface between said front runners.

13(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 12 wherein said guide runner is straight and disposed on said longitudinal axis (A).

14(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 12 wherein guide runner is substantially co-extensive longitudinally with said front runners.

15(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 13 wherein said guide runner tapers in a narrowing fashion from said front end toward said middle of said body.

16(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 1 including a brake ridge disposed in an arcuate path across said longitudinal axis (A) adjacent said rear end of said body.

17(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 17 wherein said rear runner extends outwardly from said body further than said brake ridge.

18(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 17 wherein said brake ridge comprises a plurality of teeth separated by a plurality of interleaved arches.

19(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 17 wherein said body includes an inclined section adjacent said rear end and slanting upwardly into said body from said rear runner to said rear end of said body, said brake ridge being disposed on and extending upwardly from said inclined section.

20(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 1 wherein said body includes a downwardly extending center surrounded by a peripheral flange.

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21(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 20 wherein said peripheral flange includes two front corners and two rear corners and a waisted middle.

22(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 21 wherein said waited middle includes a pair of notches in said flange on either side of said middle.

23(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 22 wherein said flange bulges outwardly between said notches and said front and rear corners to define an hourglass-like shape.

24(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 23 wherein said flange includes a lead point on said center axis (A) at said front end between said front corners.

25(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 23 wherein said flange includes a trailing point on said center axis (A) at said rear end between said rear corners.

26(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 23 wherein said flange is straight across between said rear corners.

27(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 1 wherein said body is fabricated of a single sheet of plastic material.

28(Original). A sled as set forth in claim 28 wherein said single sheet of plastic material includes a braking ridge adjacent to said rear end of said body.

29(New). A sled, comprising:

dish shaped body having a lower running surface, a rim spaced above said running surface and a curved sidewall extending between said lower running surface and said rim;

at least one braking feature formed in said curved sidewall projecting outwardly of said body and spaced from said lower running surface and said rim and defining a corresponding recess on an opposite inner surface of said body.

30(New). The sled of claim 29 wherein said at least one braking feature is a three-dimensional feature formed as a bulging projection of said sidewall.

31(New). The sled of claim 30 including a plurality of said braking features.